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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 40 are pending. No claims are allowed, however, claims 6 and 8 to 26 are objected to.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 28, 29, 33 and 34 are canceled, and claims 37 to 40 are new.

1. Claims 6 and 8 to 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the subject matter of canceled claim 6 has been amended into independent claim 1. Similar amendments have been made to independent claims 27 and 32. For this reason, amended independent claims 1, 27 and 32 are believed to be patentable. Claims 8 to 26 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims

Reconsideration of this objection is requested.

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 7 has been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

3. Claims 27, 28 and 31 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bass et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,225,132). The teachings of this patent are essentially as set forth by the Examiner. As discussed in section 1 above, independent claim 27 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that of objected to claim 6. This is believed to render amended independent claim 27 patentable over Bass et al. Claim 28 has been

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canceled and claim 31 is allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim.

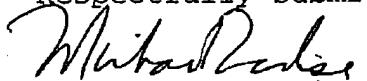
Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

4. Claims 1 to 5, and 27 to 36 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dey (U.S. Patent No., 4,053,692) in view of Azom.com as evidentiary support. The teachings of the Dey patent and Azom.com publication are essentially as set forth by the Examiner. However, as discussed in section 1 above, independent claims 1, 27 and 32 have been amended to include subject matter similar to that of objected to claim 6. This is believed to render these amended independent claims patentable over Dey. Claims 4, 5, 30, 31, 35 and 36 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims. Claims 2, 3, 28, 29, 33 and 34 have been canceled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

It is believed that claims 1, 4, 5, 8 to 27, 30 to 32 and 35 to 40 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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